



492.342  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Miller et al.

Application No.: 10/765,514

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: January 22, 2004

Examiner: Unknown

For: VALVE ELEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art, should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING

FACSIMILE

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service  
with sufficient postage as first class mail in  
an envelope addressed to the Assistant  
Commissioner for Patents, Washington,  
D.C. 20231

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and  
Trademark Office.

March 1, 2004

Date

*Toni Sampson*

(signature of person signing) Toni Sampson

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ (a) within three months of the filing date of the patent application, (b) within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 of the international application, or (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- ☐ **after** (a), (b), or (c) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, and includes:
  - ☐ the Certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) (see "Certification" below).
  - ☐ the fee of \$240 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, and includes the Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) (See "Certification" below), a Petition requesting consideration of the Information Disclosure State (see "Petition" below), and the Petition Fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) (see "Fees" below).

#### Copies of the References

- ☒ Copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith. Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevant pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3).
- ☐ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. Applications	U.S. Filing Date	Patented	Pending	Abandoned
1. 0 /				
2. 0 /				

### Other Applications

- ☐ The Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. patent application(s):

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. Applications	U.S. Filing Date	Patented	Pending	Abandoned
1. 0 /				
2. 0 /				

### Certification

- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certified that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application or, to the knowledge of the attorney signing after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designed in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

### Petition

- ☐ The undersigned attorney hereby petitions the Commissioner to consider this Information Disclosure Statement and the references listed on the enclosed For PTO-1449 in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

### Fees

- ☒ **No fee** is owed by the applicant(s).
- ☐ The **IDS fee of \$180.00** under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The **Petition Fee of \$130.00** set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) is enclosed herewith.

### Method of Payment of Fees

- ☐ Attached is a check in the amount of \$ .
- ☐ Charge Deposit Account No. 03 2270 in the amount of \$180.00. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

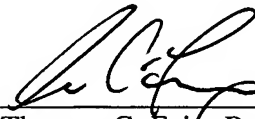
**Authorization to Charge Additional Fees**

- ☐ If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 03 2270. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

**Instructions as to Overpayment**

- ☐ Credit Account No. 03 2270  
☐ Refund

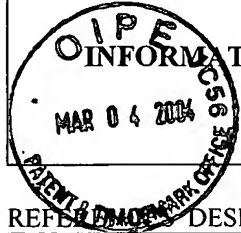
Date: March 1, 2004



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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS</b> <b>FOR APPLICANT'S</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b> 492.342	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> 10/765,514
	<b>APPLICANT(S)</b> Miller et al.	
	<b>FILING DATE</b> January 22, 2004	<b>GROUP</b>



REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,056,439	5/2000	Graham			
		5,727,881	3/1998	Domke			
		4,310,118	1/82	Kisida et al.			
		5,326,176	7/94	Domke			
		5,500,663	3/96	Ujita et al.			
		4,890,637	1/90	Lamparter			
		4,715,494	12/87	Heitzenröder et al.			
		4,653,661	3/87	Buchner et al.			
		4,134,535	1/79	Barthels e tal.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Data, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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